

**From:** Michael Getter  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/29/01 8:27pm  
**Subject:** microsoft settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am protesting the terms of the proposed settlement offered to and accepted by Microsoft. I am a Macintosh user and have appreciated some Microsoft products for years. Excel, for example, is a terrific spreadsheet - the best that there is, in fact. However, I use far more non-Microsoft products because they are better at doing the job for which they were designed. In most cases, Microsoft offers similar, though inferior, products. In the future I hope I will be able to continue to choose better products from competing software publishers just as I can today.

However, the illegal behavior practiced by Microsoft in the past will not be significantly abated in the future under the proposed settlement. Microsoft will continue to be able to offer inferior applications similar to superior products on the market, wrapping them up in the latest Windows operating system that now controls over 90% of the market. This practice alone will make it increasingly difficult for small companies, let alone larger ones, to stay in business even though in many instances they offer better solutions to user needs. This is unfair, and I would think, illegal. I ask that the remedy be altered to reflect this inequity. Today, it does not.

I do not wish to become a part of the Microsoft .Net strategy, I do not wish to use Windows in any flavor. I do not wish to be "tracked" by Microsoft software. I do not wish to be forced to purchase software, and hardware, upgrades in order to feed Microsoft's profits. Rather, I prefer to make independent choices for better software based upon my knowledge that I am free to make those choices and not be precluded from doing so due to Microsoft's insatiable drive to eliminate all competition.

Please consider the following:

- 1 Allow computer buyers to choose the operating system they prefer. Make the operating system an separate, extra cost option at the time of the hardware purchase. This will give buyers a true choice when purchasing the computer and the operating system. It will also compel Microsoft to sell the operating system CDs at the time of purchase as other companies do.
- 2 Microsoft must be made to reveal its document formats and operating system requirements so that competing products may interact with them. This will enable all software publishers to compete in a meaningful way.
- 3 Disallow Microsoft from embedding any software in its operating system or offering it for free to drive out competition. Demand that all Microsoft products be sold at a true and reasonable cost. This will open the door to software competitors - a door that is being closed more tightly as time goes on.

If Microsoft offers superior products in the future, it will continue to thrive. By the same token, other vendors will be given an above board opportunity to compete in the software and operating system market. They, too, will have a full and fair chance to succeed. Please review the proposed settlement and make the changes required to allow the software industry to regain its competitive balance and prosper.

Respectfully,

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